

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An exposure method that at least partially immerses, in liquid, a surface of an object to be exposed, and a surface of a projection optical system closest to the object, and projects a repetitive pattern formed on a mask via the projection optical system onto the object, said exposure method forming on a pupil of the projection optical system an effective light source that emits, from an axis orthogonal to an optical axis of the projection optical system, light that is parallel to the line direction of the fine patterns and has an incident angle θ upon the object, wherein the light includes only s-polarized light in an area of an incident angle θ that satisfies, ~~$90^\circ - \theta_{NA} = \theta = \theta_{NA}$~~ $90^\circ - \theta_{NA} \leq \theta \leq \theta_{NA}$, where θ_{NA} is the largest value of the incident angel θ .
2. (Original) An exposure method according to claim 1, wherein the area has a canoe shape formed by intersecting two circles.
3. (Original) An exposure method according to claim 1, wherein the area has a shape by linearly cutting down part of a circle.
4. (Original) An exposure method according to claim 1, wherein the area has a shape by linearly cutting down part of an annulus.

5. (Original) An exposure method according to claim 1, wherein the area has a circular shape.

6 -38 (Cancelled)